

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of March 29, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PALM SUNDAY

The time has come for God's plan for salvation to come to fruition. As Jesus enters into Jerusalem, He rides humbly on a donkey, a ride fit for a king (according to Old Testament tradition). But this is not the kind of king they are expecting. Jesus is not a king who will destroy the Romans. He's after a much greater enemy and the King will reign as he completely conquers death and sin forever.



MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2

TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)

4:15 PM | 7:00 PM

ONLINE @ 4:15 PM

Go with Jesus to the Upper Room where He offers the gift of His forgiving presence through a very special meal before His arrest.



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3

TENEBRAE TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)

12:00 PM | 7:00 PM

ONLINE @ 12:00 PM

TENEBRAE MODERN PRAISE (GYMNASIUM)

7:00 PM

ONLINE @ 7:00 PM

Experience the passion of our Savior through this dramatic service that contrasts darkness with light through God's Word and powerful music of reflection.



EASTER APRIL 4-5

MODERN PRAISE (GYMNASIUM)

SATURDAY @ 5:00 PM | SUNDAY @ 9:15 AM | 10:45 AM

ONLINE @ 10:45 AM

TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)

SUNDAY @ 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM

ONLINE @ 9:30 AM

Be one of the first to race to the empty tomb and celebrate that He is risen!



WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHN FAMILY!

Praise the Lord! Last weekend we officially welcomed 31 families (42 adults and 17 children) into membership as part of the St. John family! These amazing individuals recently completed the 8-week ONE Class. Please give them a warm welcome and get to know them - you'll be glad you did! May the Lord bless us all as we continue to walk together through His Word as ONE in Jesus...Reaching Many! We are so very blessed! If you are interested in making St. John your official spiritual home, or want to explore what that means, the next ONE Class will start September 21. Please contact our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at dstevens@stjohnrochester.org if you'd like to join the next class.

Samuel and Marisa
Aurenhamer
Antoinette Bailey
Jordan Barber
Gail Benedettini, Santino (c)
Daniel and Emily Bessolo,
Luke (c), Warner (c),
Margaret (c)
Will Churchill
Will Coderre

Marija Dimitriovski, Mila (c)
April Doyle, Ellie (c),
Charlotte (c), Harper (c)
Alyse Erickson, Madden (c),
Beckett (c)
Jake Freeman
Pete and Leah Gibb,
Peter (c)
Brian and Jodie
Goodwin, Ellie (c)

Thomas and Amy Griffin
Maxwell Guitar
Ryan and Nicole Kocaj,
Hudson (c), Hayden (c),
Landon (c)
Kari Kocher, Emma (c)
Carter Lee
Makayla Lezotte
Kimberley Maisano
Alan and Diane May

Timothy McCann
Karen North
Chris Schad, Evelyn (c)
Art and Kimberly Schrade
Danelle Strich
Kim Vallet
Cori Vanker
Rob and Susan Walker
Brian and Carolyn
Wyckhuys
Alan and Julie Yax



FIRST COMMUNION

This week at our Maundy Thursday services we will celebrate 45 middle school students who recently completed the First Communion class. Please pray for our young people as they continue to grow in their faith through the sacrament.

Logan Alessi
Morgan Alessi
Violet Audia
Lucas Barr
Brooklyn Boutorwick
Scarlett Cluff
Jack Copland
Brinley Costa
Mackenzie Costa
Maddiex Cruce
Devyn Delaney
Nora Fulgenzi

Peighton Gardner
Owen Glanville
Ava Grabow
Micah Hinderer
Evelyn Johansson
Lilee Jung
Parker Ketelsen
Samantha Ketelsen
Dimitri Kfoury
Emma Kwapis
Alexa Lively
Neely Lorenzen

Jackson MacDonald
Silvia Manoni
Ethan Markey
Aubrey Morgante
Slate Morgante
Raegan Muehmel
Abe Reading
Max Reading
Henrik Reinhold
Annabelle Robert
Lucas Scholl
Brady Smith

Brenna Smith
Declan Smith
Hannah Thomas
Olivia Thomas
Kinsley Wagner
Penelope Waller
Britton Weaver
Emma VanWulfen
Mila Yokhana

CREATING A PALM CROSS



TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

For your convenience, all hymn & liturgy texts will also be displayed on the screens at the front of the Sanctuary. Liturgy elements are taken from Divine Service, Setting 1 (p. 151).

PRELUDE: Quarti Toni	Brass Ensemble
INVOCATION/OPENING VERSES	Screen
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: <i>Hosanna, Loud Hosanna</i>	LSB #443
SERVICE OF THE WORD	Screen
Confession	
Kyrie	Mixed Choir & Instrumentalists
Prayer of the Day	
Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:19-29	
Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11	
Anthem: Ave Verum	Mixed Choir & Instrumentalists
Holy Gospel Reading: John 12:12-19	
THE NICENE CREED	Screen
HYMN OF THE DAY: <i>Tree of Life</i>	Screen Women (v.2), Men (v.3), Choir (v.4)
MESSAGE	Pastor Steve Grafe
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER	
ORDER OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	Screen
HYMN: All Glory, Laud, and Honor	LSB #442
HYMN: No Tramp of Soldiers Marching Feet	LSB #444
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION	
CLOSING HYMN: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty	LSB #441
PRELUDE: Primi Toni	Brass Ensemble

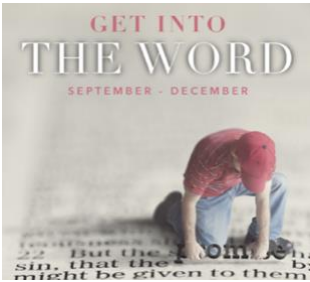
COMMUNION - THE LORD'S SUPPER - WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (1 Cor. 11:23-32) the Lord's Supper, properly received brings great blessings, but improperly received without understanding can actually incur God's judgment. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the Biblical teaching of communion, please feel free to commune today. If you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.



As you come forward, gluten free wafers are available by request, as well as individual cup choice of wine or lighter colored non-alcoholic grape juice (located in the center of the trays). Common cup is also offered during Traditional Praise services at the altar only. **During regular worship weekends, the Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first and third weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday, Communion will be served at both Traditional and Modern Praise services.**

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



GET INTO THE WORD | Winter Bible Studies & LIFEgroups

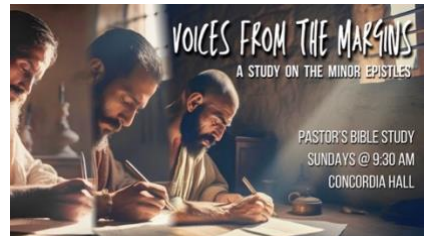
Members & guests alike, all are invited to take a moment to see what follows in this guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's presence through Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, men and women, Bible basics to more in-depth studies, there truly is something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstance, or schedule! **Scan the QR Code or visit our website to get the latest edition!**



VOICES FROM THE MARGINS: A STUDY ON THE "MINOR" EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

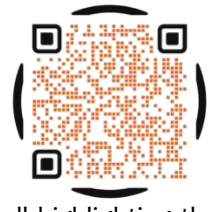
Pastor's Bible Study | Sundays at 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall

Join our Pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall. We are familiar with Romans, Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, but what about the smaller Epistles? John's letters, Peter's letters, or even Philemon? We are covering these three, chapter by chapter, and hearing from the "margins", the lesser known letters. We can't wait to see you! For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



HOLY WEEK PODCAST

Pastor Tyler and Trevor talk about Holy Week with Pastor Joel Werner (Christ Our Savior, Livonia) on this week's episode of Suffering Servants. From Palm Sunday, to the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, to the Cross on Friday, all the way to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, we walk through it all highlighting the implications for us as believers in Christ. We pray the conversation adds to your meditation as Holy Week begins this weekend! Scan the QR code or find Suffering Servants wherever you listen to podcasts!



READING & INTERPRETING THE BIBLE | Wednesdays at 6:00 PM starting April 15 | Concordia Hall



The Wednesday night Adult Bible Study is beginning a new series. In this course, Chad Bird invites you into the grand story of Scripture, a story that stretches from Genesis to Revelation and is still alive and speaking today. You'll learn how to read both carefully and confidently, paying attention to context and genre while following the Bible's overarching narrative that always leads us to Christ and our life in Him. This course introduces essential interpretive tools for reading the Bible with clarity, depth, and faithfulness, equipping you to hear God's voice in His Word and to teach and share the

Scriptures with confidence. For more information contact Bob Danielson at cornell_eng@hotmail.com.

DAD'S BIBLE STUDY | Wednesdays at 6:00 AM | Luther Hall

This study is intended for dads of all ages and walks of faith as we grow in God's Word together, learn what it means to lead our families well, and receive encouragement in the highest calling God has for men. Join us on Wednesday mornings (even if you have to leave early) as we pick a book of the Bible and read through it with discussion. Coffee and bagels/donuts will be provided, so that we don't miss out on breakfast before work! Contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

MOM'S BIBLE STUDY | Rooted Together: Moms Growing in Faith 1st & 3rd Fridays at 2:00 PM | Luther Hall

This study creates a welcoming community for moms seeking deeper roots in Christ and stronger connections with one another. Pastor Tyler will be sharing Scripture, prayer, and honest conversation as we grow together in faith while navigating the joys and challenges of motherhood. Whether you're new to faith or have walked with Jesus for years, you're invited to come for encouragement and growth alongside other moms. Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month (MomCo off-weeks) at 2:00 PM in Luther Hall before student pick-up! Contact Beth Lowell at ealowell1@gmail.com.

SHARED LIFE



SPRING BREAK OFFICE HOURS | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Monday, March 30 – Thursday, April 2: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Friday, April 3: Office Closed
Doors will be scheduled for afternoon Bible Studies and LIFEgroups. If you need to meet with a staff member outside of these hours, please contact them to schedule an appointment.

MEN'S BREAKFAST | Saturday, April 18 at 8:00 AM | Gym

Gentlemen, join us on Saturday, April 18 at 8:00 AM for a delicious breakfast provided by our men's team and connect with other believers who are humbly seeking to grow as men of faith. We will gather to have breakfast and fellowship with each other while listening to Rev. Dr. David Maier, former president of the Michigan District, LCMS. More details on Pastor Maier's topic will be released soon! **Register now by scanning the QR code or visiting stjohnrochester.org/event/mens_breakfast.**



GRIEF SHARE | Saturdays at 10:00 AM | Church Library

Grief Share is a special weekly support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. It is designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the days ahead. **This group meets Saturdays at 10:00 AM in the Church Library and runs until May 16.** For

more information, please contact Terry Priestly at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org

OPEN POSITION | FULL-TIME CAMPUS PORTER

We have an immediate need for a full-time Campus Porter. The ideal candidate would be able to work a flexible schedule to provide coverage midday to early evening through the school year. Tasks would include cleaning and restocking the school facilities, sweeping, vacuuming floors, and removal of the trash. Interested candidates should contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss sgauss@stjohnrochester.org or our Facility Team Lead, Mark Siewert msiewert@stjohnrochester.org

EASTER PARKING REMINDERS

As we prepare for Easter weekend, we praise the Lord that large crowds are anticipated on Sunday morning. In order to provide adequate parking for our many guests and those with mobility concerns, **if you are able, please consider parking across Helen St. in the parking lot behind the office building, or diagonally across University behind the office building on the northeast corner.** We appreciate your help in allowing those with mobility concerns, small children, and visitors to park closer to our building.



St. John Easter Parking Options

ST. JOHN PARKING LOTS:

On Easter SUNDAY only, the gate to Alice Street will be open for traffic to exit onto N. Alice Street.

OVER FLOW PARKING LOTS:

In order to provide adequate parking for our many guests and those with mobility concerns, if you are able, please consider parking in one of our off-site overflow lots.



QUILTING GROUP | 2nd and 4th Mondays in Room 128

Are you looking for a meaningful way to share your time and enjoy fellowship with other women? The St. John Quilting Group invites you to join their mission of bringing warmth and comfort to those in need. Together, they create handmade quilts that are distributed globally to the poor and displaced. No sewing skills are required. If you can pin, thread a needle, or tie a knot, that's all that is needed! We would love to see you there. For more information, please contact Susan Walker at susanwalker749@yahoo.com.

VESTRY, ELDERS, AND FOUNDATION NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

"The greatest among you is the one who serves." Matthew 23:11 These humble words of Jesus set the tone for what it means to be great in the Kingdom of God. Taking on a leadership role at St. John as a member of the Vestry, Elders, or Foundation is about humble service to Jesus and others. Nominations are now being accepted for individuals to serve on Vestry, Elders, and Foundation. Please pray for those whom you know that may be a blessing to Christ's ministry at St. John and if He leads you to do so, complete a nomination form (in the pastoral office or main office) and submit it to the pastoral office no later than Wednesday April 8. What an incredible opportunity to use the talents that the Lord has blessed us with, to make a difference in furthering His work! **Scan the QR code for more information.**



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The Annual St. John Parent Network Mother-Son Bowling Outing was held recently, with our K - 8th grade boys and their moms enjoying bowling, pizza, games, a photo booth, and most importantly, the opportunity to share special time together! A huge thank you to the volunteers that make this event possible!



Students and staff enjoyed this past week of our National Lutheran Schools celebration! With daily devotions, a daily themed attire, and special events throughout the week including a STEAM Assembly sponsored by the Parent Network, an all-school Western Bingo game, and more. Our weeklong coin collection and baby clothing drive will benefit babies and families supported by Crossroads pregnancy Center, as we serve others out of our joy from and love for Jesus. We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve, and especially for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. Please enjoy the pictures from this amazing week on the next page!

Open Enrollment is ongoing based on availability. If you would like to schedule a family tour for Preschool to 8th grade, or if you would like to schedule a Student Shadow Visit for a child entering 5th - 8th grades, please contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions at bdameron@stjohnrochester.org or visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions.

National Lutheran Schools Week DAY 1: Red, White & Blue / Mobile Ed STEAM. Special thank you to Micah Lorenzen LHSA for his devotion on trusting God. Students learned Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math in the mobile hands on museum.





National Lutheran Schools Week Day 2: Sportswear / Students vs. Staff Volleyball match. The 8th graders started strong by winning the first set. Set 2 was a battle to the end with the Staff edging out the win. During set 3 the 8th graders succumbed to the many, many, MANY years of experience on the Staff team. Our Director of Admissions, Beth Dameron, served the winning point; an ACE!

National Lutheran Schools Week Day 3: Western Wednesday / Teacher Bingo. Students were all decked out in western gear and participated in a rootin' tootin' game of teacher bingo! Yee-haw!





National Lutheran Schools Week Day 4: Hawaiian Day / Masked Singer. Colorful Hawaiian outfits created a whimsical atmosphere and prepared everyone for the first ever LIVE Masked Singer event.

National Lutheran Schools Week Day 5: Comfy Pajama / Movie Day. Students wore cozy pajamas during devotions on Friday as our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, shared the difference between Joy and Happiness. After tasting the "no recipe mystery cake" from Thursday's devotion, he was somehow able to feel both joy and happiness in light of the children's smiles and laughter.





Easter Eggstravaganza

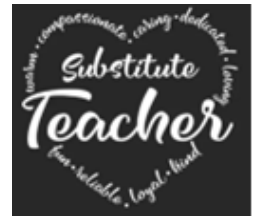




We give and serve out of the joy of having Jesus in us! As part of our NLSW celebrations, our students have many serve opportunities. Our middle school students helped prepare for our Easter Eggstravaganza event, shared with students information about the coin collection, and helped prepare for the baby clothing donation drive. All of our children were able to help by donating coins and baby clothing.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS | Now Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted for substitute teachers for the current school year. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree and be able to pass a background check. Prior teaching experience is helpful but not required. Candidates should have a love for Jesus and a love for children. Interested candidates should email their resume to Interim Principal Elizabeth Leinberger at eleinberger@stjohnrochester.org.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH 29 & APRIL 5

Children ages 4 years to 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to join us every Sunday in the school wing for Sunday School! There are no attendance requirements! If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please

contact the Pastoral Office at church@stjohnrochester.org.

Sign up for our Sunday School email list to get updates! Sign up at the Sunday School kiosk or on our website at stjohnrochester.org/groups/childrens-sunday-school

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Meets most Sundays at 6:00 PM in the Youth Room. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org



SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

Your continued financial support and partnership in the ministry and mission of St. John Lutheran Church & School is so important and is making a huge difference in changing lives for eternity in Jesus' name! If you are worshipping onsite, offerings can be placed in the designated areas outside the sanctuary. You can also scan the provided QR code to give online or visit our website stjohnrochester.org/give/. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



CONSTANT PRAYER

LET US PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or visit our website and click on the prayer link toward the bottom of the homepage. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along (or kept confidential when requested) to our prayer warriors and are also included in our weekend worship.



Healing & Peace: Gloria Tripp - terminal stage 4 cancer / Daughter of Rebecca Mrljak - ICU / Luke Weber (7y grandson of Kim Evans) - recovering from brain surgery / Stephanie Hall - thanksgiving for successful cancer treatment / Ruth Sadler - additional surgeries & treatments from auto accident / Carol Parker - cancer awaiting surgery scheduling / Kim Schrade - eye surgery / Linda Doebler - surgery / Ruebin Rios (son-in-law of Jeff Todd) - work accident / Delores Griffith – hospice / Wesley (1.5y great nephew of Karen Hager) – RSV breathing trouble / Jonathan (10y) – severe chest infection & neurological complications

Bereavement (*for the families of*): Pam (sister of Winnie Best) / Margaret Staffeld

Strength & Guidance: Call Team for our Youth & Family ministry director / For students receiving First Communion / Safety for all those traveling during Spring break

Gospel Impact: Holy Week Services

Community/Nation/World: Those families affected by the on-going war with Iran



COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY PARKING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer parking lot attendants are needed to help make Easter Sunday run smoothly. Volunteers are needed from 9:15 - 11:00 AM. If you are available to help, **please contact our Kriss Hinchman at 248-202-8228.**



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Sunday School team is looking for 1-2 specific adult volunteers to help some of God's children with the highest-needs. If you are called to work with kids who have unique sets of needs, while providing them with an opportunity to share in God's at Sunday School in diverse ways, **please contact Terry Priestley at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org or Beth Grillo at bethmgrillo@gmail.com to learn more!**

FAMILY OF GOD | April 5, 2026 | Easter Sunday

The first Sunday of each month our St. John family provides a meal to Family of God Church in Detroit. Our next serve event is April 5. There are several ways you can help:

- 1. Donate Food:** Sign up to donate specific items by visiting the link below. Donations can be dropped off to St. John **school kitchen or front desk.**
- 2. Meal Prep Team:** Help prepare food (at St. John) after worship on April 5.
- 3. Greet & Serve:** Travel to Family of God (carpool leaves St. John at 2:00 PM) to greet and serve the meal.

SIGN UP NOW AT:

www.stjohnrochester.org/FOG2026 or scan the QR code!

For more information, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.



JOIN THE TRADITIONAL PRAISE TECH TEAM!

Have you ever wanted to go "behind the scenes" to learn the basics of video and sound production? We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our Traditional Praise team for an easy, low-pressure way to serve that only requires arriving 15 minutes before the service.



No experience necessary! We will provide all the training you need over 3 weeks starting April 12, so come help us bring our worship to life! For more information contact Trevor Noonan, our Director of Modern Praise and Worship Arts at tnoonan@stjohnrochester.org



WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

Here is a highlight of activities happening on campus this week.



MON	9:00 AM	The Five Books of Moses - Men's Bible Study (Church Library)	30
TUE	8:45 AM 1:00 PM	Women of Prayer (Church Library) ESL (Mary Martha)	31
WED	6:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM	Dad's Bible Study (Luther Hall) The Way of Wisdom - Ladies Bible Study (Concordia Hall) Brass Ensemble Practice (Choir Loft) Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft) Adult Bible Study (Concordia Hall)	1
THR	10:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM	The Lutheran Witness - Men's Bible Study International Bible Study (Mary Martha) Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Sanctuary) Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Sanctuary)	2
FRI	12:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Tre-Ore Worship Service (Sanctuary) ONE HOUR ONLY Tenebrae Worship Service (Sanctuary) Tenebrae Worship Service (Gymnasium)	3
SAT	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Griefshare (Church Library) Raster Worship Service (Gymnasium)	4
SUN	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 11:00 AM	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL / NO PASTOR' BIBLE STUDY Traditional Praise (Sanctuary) Modern Praise (Gymnasium) Traditional Praise (Sanctuary) Modern Praise (Gymnasium) Traditional Praise (Sanctuary)	5



Happy
Easter



He is
Risen



Worship Schedule

Traditional Praise: Sundays at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM (also online), and 11:00 AM

Modern Praise: Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays at 10:45 AM (also online)

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohnrochester.org